



# Ranger's Challenge at the Lakes

This challenge is for youth and adults that want to look deeper into the nature of the park, focusing near the Big and Small Lakes. You will want to have a pair of binoculars and a mammal, insect or birds field guides or apps on your smart phone

Please **do not** collect live items, instead take photos. You are welcome to post your favorite photos on Bruneau Dunes State Park's Facebook page or on Idaho State Parks Instagram or Twitter page using #idstateparks.



## Search for the following animals or evidence of use:

Find three different types of ducks. You may find 5 or 6 different species on a good day. List or describe them:

Look for a mammal hopping along the trail. Is it a nuttall's cottontail or Black-tailed jackrabbit?

Who is singing at the Lake? Name as many songbirds that you can hear :

You might hear a rustling among the willows. Name one or more of these birds or animals who are rustling:

Can you find or hear an amphibian? You will have the best luck early morning or evening hours. Who is it?



You may see dragonflies or damselflies. What color are they? How many different species do you spy?

While you are looking in the water, can you find different types of water bugs? Just watch the water and look for movement. What do you see? List names or describe:



Can you find a bird nest? Is it a large or small? Size and location of the nest will give you an idea of the type of bird whose home you found. What shape is it? Where is it located?

Can you see a small bird with a forked tail swooping above the water? What is it and why do people like them so much? Hint, it has to do with what they eat.

Watch for fishing birds, many which are diving birds that swim on the surface and then dive for fish. List the species found:

Some birds spend much of their time sticking their beaks in the mud and shallow waters. Why are they doing that? Who are they?

Wading fishing birds are also seen around the Lakes. Which one did you see?

Reeds and willows surround the lake providing food and protection for the lake community. Can you name three different species?

Do you spy any tracks? What type of critter made them?

